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No one who has visited the rooms of the Pennsylvania historical society and has seen the vast amount of material preserved there can help sharing Mr. Faris' impulse to draw forth the romance of the historical city which has left so rich and fascinating a record. Nor does the author of *The romance of old Philadelphia* seem to find any deficiency. His statement, "much of the materials for the volume has been gathered from manuscripts and genealogical records" and rare books found in the Pennsylvania historical society, assures for him a respectful hearing. None could delve there and fail to discover something of interest. And as Mr. Faris says, "because of the unique part played by Philadelphia in the history of the nation, the appeal made by the records of those who lived and labored, who loved and struggled there, has even more of general interest than a similar study of the pioneers of many other portions of the country."

As in similar works, an introductory chapter treats of the founding of the city; it is followed successively by chapters on housebuilding and homemaking, social life and recreation, early schools, religious and social customs, government, and the like. Throughout the sources are drawn on freely for quotation.

It is to be deplored that many of the chapters in several recent books on Philadelphia and Pennsylvania are practically repetitions. For instance, *Early Philadelphia*, by H. M. Lippincott, and the present work, *The romance of old Philadelphia*, both published by the same firm, are too much alike to justify both; neither have covered the field exhaustively, yet both have undoubted merit. When so much data is available, it would seem that a better scheme of publication would have been a scholarly compilation under the direction of one author, covering the ground in several volumes, rather than independent writers covering the same ground with needless repetition.

West Florida controversy, 1798-1813. A study in American diplomacy.

By Isaac Joslin Cox, associate professor of history, University of Cincinnati. [Albert Shaw lectures on diplomatic history, 1912] (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins press, 1918. 698 p. \$3.00 net)

This book deals with the successive stages of the American seizure and occupation of Spanish West Florida in the period 1798 to 1813. It is prefaced by long introductory chapters dealing with the earlier history of the region under Spanish, French, and English control; then follows a detailed account of the diplomatic intrigue, the expansion of population into the southwest, the acts of border violence, the internal revolutions in West Florida, and finally a portrayal of the actual occupation. The relation of the pressure of the American frontier population upon the southwestern border is everywhere emphasized as the key-

note of the period. The Louisiana purchase and the Burr conspiracy are analyzed relative to the general southwestern situation and to the West Florida problem in particular. Such personalities as Governor Claiborne of Orleans territory and Governor Holmes of Mississippi territory, both of whom have been rescued from oblivion in recent years, are necessarily given a large place among the men and movements of the period.

The most outstanding impression conveyed to the reviewer is that of the successive despoiling of Spanish territory by a republican nation, under the leadership of so-called democratic statesmen. This chauvinistic aspect of the early years of American national history is so thoroughly established that, in the future, no reputable historian will be likely to risk his standing by attempting to obscure it. Jefferson and Madison have at last received their just deserts, so far as this phase of their record is concerned. Historians have long known that our methods and policies with reference to our weaker neighbors were not highly commendable. But the extent of the chicanery and crookedness involved in our effort to secure the coveted area is borne in on the mind of the reader in a forcible manner. The custodians of our nation in its youth vied with the old world politicians in duplicity and deceit. They did not even refuse to utilize known traitors to do their work (*vide* Wilkinson).

The book is the result of a careful, painstaking search of Spanish, French, and American archives. The chief sources are the *Papeles procedentes de Cuba*, in the *Archive general* at Seville, Spain, the diplomatic correspondence in the *Archives des affaires étrangères* at Paris and in the *Archivo historico nacional* at Madrid. Extensive use was also made of the original letter-books of Governor W. C. C. Claiborne and other papers in the state department of archives and history at Jackson, Mississippi, the archives of the state and war departments at Washington, and the manuscript collections in the library of congress.

Quite possibly it is an ungrateful criticism to suggest that if the book before us had been compressed to about one-third its present length it would have reached a much wider public than it is ever likely to reach with its present dimensions. It is just this wide public that the book should reach, for it is an excellent piece of research on a subject that has long merited a close, scientific scrutiny. The compression suggested could well have been achieved without sacrificing any material points: many of the wearisome details could have been subordinated to appendices and notes where they would have been available for those who desired still further illustrative material. As it stands, however, the text is encumbered with too much unnecessary luggage,

On the other hand it must be noted that few errors seem to have been made. The few noted by the reviewer, evidently typographical for the most part, are too trivial for mention. The volume contains three sketch maps to illustrate the text, a copy of Sarby's "Map of the state of Louisiana," and a dependable index. There is no bibliography appended; this is regrettable, since one would like to know more about the sources.

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Ohio in the time of the confederation. Edited with introduction and notes by Archer Butler Hulbert, professor of history, Marietta college. [Marietta college historical collections, volumes 2 and 3, Ohio company series, volumes 2 and 3] (Marietta, Ohio: Marietta historical commission, 1917. 227; 220 p. \$5.00)

Two more volumes of the *Collections* of the Marietta historical commission, both issued in war time with the editor-in-chief in camp service, constitute a notable achievement. One must believe, however, that although the introductions were written at Camp Russell and Camp Travis respectively, the bulk of the work was accomplished in a scholar's study, for the thoroughness and detachment with which it is accomplished ill befit the corridors of Mars.

The second installment of the Ohio company records is even more interesting than those embodied in volume I, and suggests the activities of a town-meeting democracy combined with a touch of modern socialized state care. The agents and proprietors of the Ohio company even appeal to "the paternal tenderness of the Government of the United States" for assistance during the Indian wars. In illustration of their own "paternal tenderness" are to be noted the sums advanced for the "Relief Comfort and recovery" of the sick persons of the settlement, and the appropriation made for the purchase of amputating and trepanning instruments. Another form of relief was the proposal to send an agent to New York to secure \$2,000 in cash "Solely for the purpose of Benefiting the Settlement by Loan to such Individuals as Stand in need of the Same." Also the resolution to loan the surplus funds of the company at the then very low rate of six per cent interest "to the assisting such Worthy industrious Persons as wish, but are unable to remove to this Country." Another instance of the humanity of the directors was the proposal to set aside a reserve a mile square upon the Muskingum for the Indian chief Cornplanter, formerly an enemy, who had become an ally of the American government. For some reason Cornplanter never took advantage of this offer of a grant, but lived and died on his reserve on the upper Allegheny, above the present town of Warren, Pennsylvania. A significant entry in the records is the appoint-